

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SIG-03 /080 R

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-----060222 280304Z /61

O R 272250Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PBOR, BH, GT, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE: AMB. MCGEE'S REMARKS TO PRESS

REF: GUATEMALA 3746

1. EMBASSY MAY STATE THAT AMB. MCGEE
WAS MISQUOTED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF GUATEMALAN TERRITORIAL
CLAIMS OR BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. THE TENOR OF HIS STATE-
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MENT WAS A REITERATION OF U.S. SUPPORT OF A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT. U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE ANGLO-GUATEMALA DISPUTE
OVER BELIZE REMAINS UNCHANGED; THAT IS THE U.S. MAINTAINS
A NEUTRAL POSITIOMN THE DISPUTE AND FAVORS A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AMB. MCGEE'S ANSWER TO

TWO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT BELIZE DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE
AT THE OAS ON JUNE 24.

3EGIN TEXT. 1. QUESTION RE BELIZE --ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT
THAT?

A. WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT ANY OF THOSE QUESTIONS THAT ARE
UNRESOLVED. IN OTHER WORDS, THE REASONS WE ARE WORRYING
IN ANY OF THE SITUATIONS IS THAT IT NOT REACH THE TRIGGER

POINT WHERE IT CAN EXPLODE. THAT IS THE WORRY. AS LONG
AS THERE ARE CONVERSATIONS GOING ON--AND THEY ARE STILL
GOING ON--THAT IS THE HOPEFUL SIDE. AND THAT PROCEEDS
TOWARD THE BETTER POSSIBILITIES THAT IT WILL NOT
EXPLODE, AND THAT'S OUR CONCERN. WE HAVE NO INTENTIONS
OF RUNNING WITH ANY BALL. WE STAND READY TO OFFER
GOOD OFFICES. WE STAND READY TO WORK WITH THE ORGANI-
ZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AS PRESIDENT CARTER STRESSED
IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS--TO HELP EASE THE SITUATION.
BUT NOT IN ANY INTERFERENCE WAY.

2. QUESTION REFERRING TO ELECTIONS--

A. OUR HOPE HAS BEEN ALL ALONG THAT THERE WOULD BE A
CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE AFTER THE SWEARING-IN OF
THE ADMINISTRATRATION THIS NEXT MONTH IN GUATEMALA.
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THAT THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER. I THINK--REGARDLESS--
THAT DOESN'T REFLECT ON THE PARTY THAT WAS IN BEFORE
THE ELECTION. IT SIMPLY MEANT THAT THE APPROACH
OF THE ELECTION ALWAYS BECOMES A CONSTRAINING FACTOR
AS IT DOES IN MOST GOVERNMENTS IN TERMS OF HOW MUCH
LATITUDE YOU HAVE FOR THIS KIND OF THING WITH AN
ELECTION IMPENDING--WHETHER YOU ARE REPUBLICANS OR
DEMOCRATS OR LIBERALS OR CONSERVATIVES--WHATEVER IT
IS. AND THE FACT THAT THE ELECTION IS SUCCESSFULLY
OVER AND THE TRANSITION ABOUT TO BE CONSUMMATED THAT
IT WILL INCREASE THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT. END TEXT VANCE

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